

strangers in the middle of the night, counsel young youth about the vital importance of education, or helping adults to read and write, Brother Booker's every act has been selfless and charitable.

Brother Booker has long been a voice of conscience in Milwaukee. When he speaks, people literally hang on to his words and stop in their tracks. Aside from his personal contributions to the community, Brother Booker has been instrumental in convincing others to provide financial backing for scores of community development projects which have strengthened our neighborhoods. The Milwaukee Journal-Sentinel put it best when it recently wrote, "Ashe is a man with an extraordinary social conscience . . . this champion of the poor has as much compassion as Job had patience."

Milwaukee has been truly blessed by his presence in our community. We know that no one can fill Brother Booker's shoes. Fortunately, he has inspired a countless number of people in our community to continue his good works and uphold his principles. Indeed, Brother Booker will remain a spiritual force in Milwaukee well into the next century. Despite his retirement, his work will be carried on by the thousands whose lives he has touched.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in paying tribute to Brother Booker T. Ashe. I join with the city of Milwaukee in praising this outstanding individual and friend to all, and wish him health and happiness in his retirement.

#### DON'T HURT VETERANS

HON. SAM FARR

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 30, 1995

Mr. FARR of California. Mr. Speaker, on Wednesday, November 29, the House of Representatives voted to return the VA-HUD appropriations bill to conference. By doing so, Congress recognized that the bill was unfair legislation which neglected the needs of our Nation's veterans and military retirees.

The bill underfunded many important veterans programs. It eliminated educational help for those willing to work at VA facilities. It cut money for construction, modernization, and improvement of VA facilities. It reduced funding for VA programs by over \$40 million from last year.

But above all, the VA-HUD bill provided insufficient funding for veterans medical care—\$400 million less than the President requested. In my district, tens of thousands of veterans and military retirees rely on VA medical programs. The cuts in the bill would have threatened the quality care they depend on.

I joined the 217 other Members—Democrats and Republicans—to recommit the VA-HUD bill in order to fix this serious flaw. Our motion to recommit specifically requested that \$213 million be restored to veterans' health care programs. Without this additional funding, the bill would have forced our veterans and military retirees to make an extra and unfair sacrifice in the name of deficit reduction.

Veterans and military retirees are willing to take their fair share of spending cuts in order to eliminate the deficit. But they do not deserve burdensome cuts which unfairly target them.

Our bipartisan vote yesterday will go a long way toward making the bill better, one that treats all our Nation's veterans and retirees fairly.

#### QUESTIONS CONCERNING TROOPS IN BOSNIA REMAIN

HON. DOUG BEREUTER

OF NEBRASKA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 30, 1995

Mr. BEREUTER. Mr. Speaker, this Member commends to his colleagues an editorial which appeared in the Omaha World-Herald on November 29, 1995.

SPEECH DIDN'T BUILD CONFIDENCE; QUESTIONS ABOUT BOSNIA REMAIN

People who looked for a specific, confidence-building explanation for sending American troops to Bosnia were entitled to be disappointed with President Clinton's speech Monday night.

Clinton addressed the nation to seek support for his proposal to send 20,000 troops into an arena where political, ethnic and religious factions have been waging war for centuries. He said 20,000 troops are needed to help NATO enforce the peace agreement negotiated at Dayton, Ohio, by the presidents of Bosnia, Serbia and Croatia.

The president was unconvincing even on the central question of why the national interest requires placing American men and women on the ground in the middle of this ancient conflict. (The U.S. Air Force and Navy already are heavily involved.)

Yes, as he said, America has ideals. Yes, it has fought in Europe twice before to "triumph over tyranny." Yes, it has certain international responsibilities that come with being the world's most powerful nation. And certainly the suffering of innocent civilians in Bosnia-Herzegovina has touched hearts around the world.

But a recitation of those facts doesn't constitute a reasoned argument for putting American ground troops in extreme peril. This isn't World War I, when America came to the aid of Western democracies to prevent their being crushed by imperial powers. Neither is it World War II, when America entered and ultimately led the great struggle to prevent the Nazis and fascists from enslaving a good part of the world.

The conflict in the Balkans is a regional problem. No one has demonstrated that it is a threat to Western civilization in general or to America's national interests.

The president said, "We're all vulnerable to the organized forces of intolerance and destruction, terrorism, ethnic, religious and regional rivalries, the spread of organized crime and weapons on mass destruction and drug trafficking. Just as surely as fascism and communism, these forces also threaten freedom and democracy, peace and prosperity. And they, too, demand American leadership."

Few would question the world's vulnerability to those forces. But what does any of that have to do with sending U.S. troops to Bosnia? If these "organized forces" are the primary reason for committing troops, why doesn't the United States have an infantry division in Rwanda, in Northern Ireland, in India, in Pakistan?

Clinton said the Americans would fight back if attacked. "We will fight fire with fire, and then some," he said. Clinton said the mission would take about a year.

How does anybody know that? As \* \* \* noted, animosities have been known to lie

dormant in the Balkans for years, then break out in bitter, bloody warfare. What guarantee does Clinton have that fighting wouldn't resume as soon as the Americans left?

What assurances does he offer that the mission won't go on indefinitely? How could anybody be sure that the fighting wouldn't escalate if American troops were attacked and forced to defend themselves?

In promising that the troops would help restore normal life for the people of Bosnia, Clinton made it sound as though the people of Bosnia were one society. They are badly divided, however. What Clinton didn't say is that the peace treaty, to accommodate the fact that the factions detest each other deeply, provides for the partition of the country into a Bosnian-Serb sector and a Muslim-Croat sector. \* \* \*

#### TRIBUTE TO ELLEN JEPSON

HON. DUNCAN HUNTER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 30, 1995

Mr. HUNTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the truly remarkable life and accomplishments of a constituent in my district, Mrs. Ellen Jepson, of Imperial, CA. Mrs. Jepson recently passed away in La Jolla, CA, after surgery at a local hospital. A mother of three and grandmother of six, Ellen can best be described as an extraordinary woman who never missed an opportunity to give of herself.

A native of Oklahoma, Ellen devoted much of her time and energy as a volunteer for various senior citizen organizations in the Imperial Valley. Her reputation as a considerate and caring human being was well known throughout the communities of the Valley. Ellen's desire to help others was an overriding concern that occupied her life until her final days.

One of Ellen's previous responsibilities included directing the senior information and referral service for the Salvation Army. During a period in her life when many people would have been content simply pursuing leisurely activities, Ellen opted to make assisting others her passion. Regularly acknowledged for her outstanding conduct, Mrs. Jepson was honored by numerous local organizations and three California Governors for her selfless work.

Most recently, Ellen served as the volunteer director of senior emergency services for the United Way of Imperial County. She tirelessly assisted seniors in a variety of ways: arranging for transportation to medical appointments, filling out paperwork, and providing help with utility bills and medication payments. Moreover, as a member of the advisory board to the Agency on Aging, Ellen was able to further assist seniors by providing Government officials with the input necessary to formulate policy for the region's aged population.

Mr. Speaker, in an age where our own personal needs and requirements seem to monopolize our priorities, I feel people like Mrs. Ellen Jepson should be recognized as heroes. I believe that perhaps we should all take note of Ellen's productive and esteemed life and modify our own accordingly. Too often, our lives are filled with news and accounts that revolve around the negative; Ellen was a positive assurance that this Nation is made up of